



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

April 9, 2020

To: Postsecondary Education Providers in Virginia

From: Atif Qarni, Secretary of Education, Commonwealth of Virginia

Subject: Advisement About Health Care Related Instruction Under Executive Order 53, Executive Order 55, and Related Orders.

1. Postsecondary education institutions are responsible for adhering to EO 53, EO 55, and any other related guidance from the Governor as a result of EO 51 and the Declaration of a State of Emergency of March 20, 2020.
2. For the sake of student safety and liability, students should not be placed into external clinical settings. If clinicals must continue so that students can complete competencies required for graduation and licensure, alternative methods —e.g., simulations and/or distance modalities— should be utilized.
3. For students already enrolled in healthcare programs who need to complete competencies to graduate in spring 2020, on-campus in-person health care instruction may occur so long as it is done consistently with requirements and advisements otherwise in effect for the Commonwealth at the time. These include but are not necessarily limited to guidance found in EO 53 (i.e., gatherings no greater than 10, minimum six feet separation) as well as subsequent guidance to wear face masks and sanitize classrooms and labs between uses.
4. Until EO 55 is lifted, institutions may not deliver new face-to-face health care instruction, except to address specific COVID-19 needs as identified by the Governor's Office.
5. Students should be given the option to forego any in-person educational experience—testing or instruction-related—to a later point in time and not be subject to adverse consequences if they select such option.